

a response from the Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We have not heard what Mr. Jacob has said. (*Interruptions*) Every day, tribal women are raped. (*Interruptions*) The State Commission's report has also proved that tribals of Ujal Maidan were gang-raped by Assam Rifles. So, we expect the Home Minister to react. He should ascertain the facts from the State Government. But he is keeping silent.

MR. SPEAKER: I am directing the Government to make a statement in this.

SHRI M.M. JACOB: I will certainly come back to the House later — not today.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapada): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, the people of India and your attention towards a very important issue. General Elections are slated for the 9th in the United Kingdom. Mr. Kamal Nath please listen.....

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Election are going on. Supposing we discuss something here, would it be right?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: I am raising an important issue. You will also agree to it that it is very important.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now that election are taking place. Supposing we discuss some-

thing here, it would be like influencing the elections there.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY: You will agree with me that their attempt to interfere in our internal affairs is a matter of concern for all of us and the High Commissioner of India to U.K. has also expressed his discontentment on the issue. I am not raising the issue of elections over there. Whatever may be the opinion of the people of that country can be pondered ones later on. All of us are worried because as per the reports about the Gallup Poll being conducted there to forecast the victory chances of Labour and Conservative the two parties in electoral fray. Mr. Ray Hatserle is going to be the Shadow Home Secretary. Thought in India we do not have the system of Shadow; cabinet but it is there in England. Mr. Ray Hatserle is likely to be the Shadow Home Secretary of the Labour Party and in his speech on Kashmir and Punjab whatever he has said, in my opinion and the House will agree with me that it tantamounts to interfering in the internal affairs of our country. This is a very important issue and his statements have been vehemently criticised and opposed by the Indian High Commissioner to England and the Indian living over there. Contrary to the reference to Kashmir in the election manifesto of his party he goes on to say that.

[*English*]

"Kashmir problem can only be solved by pressure for an eventual achievement of some form of self-determination by the people there and press for a solution according to the Resolutions. Labour would take a leading role through the UN to seek a solution to the unrest in Kashmir and Punjab. Kashmiris should have a referendum on this issue."

[Translation]

Another member of Labour Party Mr. Ken Levintson says that.

[English]

"I think if a more helpful response from the Indian Government is not forthcoming, sanctions will have to be imposed."

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, I am raising all this because it is mentioned in the election manifesto of Labour Party that:

"Labour Government's readiness to make itself available to India and Pakistan to assist in achieving a negotiated solution to the Kashmir problem that is acceptable to all people."

[Translation]

This is their official statement. I would like to submit that all the Indians living in England are worried about the statement of the future Shadow Home Secretary of the Labour Party. I am saying all this in the House because the entire cabinet is present here. I would like to stress the need to take up the issue with the senior pro-India leaders of the Labour Party like Mr. Kinnoch, Mr. Michael Foot and Mr. Dennis Hailey that the attempts to spread anti-India feelings by the would be Shadow Home Secretary can be very harmful for our country.

I think all this tantamounts to interfering in our internal affairs. That's why I have drawn the attention of the Government in the House that whatever needs to be done by India to influence the voting pattern in England in favour of those who support our country should be done by the Government.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House to the plight of the construction workers of our country. As the House knows, there are about two crores of construction workers working in various parts of our country. Sir, after agriculture, construction industry provides the largest number of employment to our country men. The workers who are now engaged in construction industry are condemned to inhuman circumstances and sometimes in inhuman condition of life and work. They have no security of employment and their wages are very low. They have no educational, housing and medical benefits and accidents are very much frequent. All this call for a legislative measure for the protection of the interests of the construction workers. It is true that a bill is pending before the Rajya Sabha. But it is considered by the construction workers that that bill is not adequately comprehensive. Sir, a draft bill was presented, in the form of a petition, to the Petitions Committee of this House on the 15th December 1986. I would like to refer to the reference of the Petitions Committee on the 15th December 1986. The petitions Committee of this House in its report submitted on the 25th of July 1989 states:

"The Committee therefore recommends that the Bill pending in Rajya Sabha be withdrawn and a fresh comprehensive Bill be introduced so as to cater to the long-felt demands of the hitherto neglected sector of the working classes."

MR. SPEAKER: Please Basuji, do not make a regular speech with quotations and all that. Make a brief statement.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, this involves two issues. One is that the Petitions Committee of this House has recommended some-